



## **How to grow onions and shallots**

Plant in a sunny position, in well-prepared soil. Avoid ground recently used to grow onions or shallots.

Plant as soon as your soil is workable, in rows 30cm (12ins) apart. For medium sized onions space at 5cm (2ins) apart, or at 10cm (4ins) apart for larger onions. Shallots need wider spacing between the bulbs - plant at 15cm (6ins) apart. Later plantings will yield smaller onions.

Plant carefully in shallow drills or gently push them into the soil. On heavier soils, plant with a trowel to avoid damaging the roots. The tip of the bulb should be showing just above the soil. Trim with scissors if the tips are too long, as birds particularly enjoy tugging them out. Check regularly and carefully - replant any that are pulled out.

Keep plants free from weeds, and water them as the bulbs develop.

Harvest from early July once the leaves turn yellow and start to bend over. Gently tease your fork under the bulbs to break the roots. Allow to dry and ripen in the sun on the soil for a few days, or in a dry place if the weather is wet. Store the dry onions in a cool and airy place.